

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 0509

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, BR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: SENATOR JAVITS RAISES ISSUE IN BRASILIA

REF: BRASILIA 0415 (NOTAL)

1. SENATOR JACOB JAVITS RAISED QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA AND CHIEF OF CIVIL HOUSEHOLD, GENERAL GOLBERY, DURING HIS VISIT TO BRASILIA JANUARY 7. SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING NAMES OF VLADIMIR HERZOG AND ANA ROSA KUCINSKI (WHOSE BROTHER HE HAD SEEN IN SAO PAULO, THE SENATOR STATED), JAVITS TOLD SILVEIRA THAT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BRAZIL WERE A PROBLEM IN US CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC OPINION AND AN OBSTACLE TO THOSE SUCH AS HE WHO WORK FOR CLOSE US-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS AND WANTED TO VIEW BRAZIL AS A MATURE AND FULLY CIVILIZED COUNTRY. SILVEIRA REPLIED THAT BRAZIL TOO HAS STOOD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND WAS ONE OF THE INITIAL SIGNERS OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION, AND HE NOTED BRIEFLY THAT PRESIDENT GEISEL IS NOW TAKING ACTIONS TO CURB ABUSES. SILVEIRA CONTINUED BY WARNING AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO SINGLE OUT CERTAIN COUNTRIES AS SCAPEGOATS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, SUBJECTING TO PRESSURES ONLY THOSE FEW COUNTRIES WHO CAN BE INFLUENCED, WHILE LETTING OFF SCOT-FREE MANY OF THE WORST OFFENDERS WHO ARE BEYOND REACH. (IN THIS CONTEXT HE NOTED " NO ONE WORRIES ABOUT BEN-BELLA THESE DAYS.") HE ALSO CONSIDERE DIT SELF-DEFEATING TO TRY TO POLITICIZE HUMAN-RIGHTS ISSUE IN
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INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. THE US AMNESTY RESOLUTION AT UNGA,

HE BELIEVED, FAILED BECAUSE IT POLITICIZED HUMAN RIGHTS.
(THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTED IN THIS RESPECT THAT THE US
RESOLUTION AND AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S ACCOMPANYING SPEECH
WERE SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AT THE "DOUBLE STANDARD"
APPROACH THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER DEPLORED. SILVEIRA
REPLIED THAT THE MONYIHAN SPEECH WAS ONE OF THE WORST
POLITICAL ADDRESSES HE HAD EVER READ BECAUSE IT OFFENDED
SO MANY COUNTRIES.)

2. GOLBERY WAS MUCH MORE FRANK THAN WAS SILVEIRA. HE
ACKNOWLEDGED TO THE SENATOR THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN
INCREASE IN HUMAN RIGHTS CASES IN THE LATTER PART OF
1975 AFTER A PERIOD OF STEADY DECLINE. GOLBERY STATED
THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GET CONTROL OF ACTIONS OF "SOME
ELEMENTS," AND ALLUDED TO THE SEE-SAW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE EXTREME RIGHT AND EXTREME LEFT. GOLBERY WAS
OPTIMISTIC, HOWEVER, THAT SITUATION WOULD IMPROVE.
CRIMMINS

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